

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry

75-4420/B

28 MAR 1975

Honorable John C. Stennis, Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your request for our recommendations on S. 99, which would establish a Joint Committee on National Security.

The proposed Joint Committee would be composed of twenty-five members, including the Senate and House leadership, appropriate committee leadership, and six other members of Congress as designated by the leadership. The function of the Joint Committee would be to study and review: (a) the activities, goals, and strategies of the National Security Council; (b) whether the foreign, domestic, and military policies of the United States are appropriately integrated in furtherance of national security; (c) whether the activities, charters, and organizations of U. S. intelligence agencies are consistent with national security requirements; and (d) Government classification and declassification practices, and to make recommendations regarding these practices, if warranted.

As you know, I have consistently taken the position that the manner in which congressional oversight of this Agency is exercised is a matter for Congress itself to determine, but I do note that to the extent S. 99 involves a review of CIA activities, it overlaps the oversight now being performed by several committees of both houses, including the Subcommittee on Central Intelligence which you chair. Consistent with the responsibility imposed upon me by the National Security Act of 1947, I do want to urge that the Congress, in effecting any change in oversight, take the necessary steps to protect intelligence sources and methods from

unauthorized disclosure. I believe limiting oversight to the minimum number of committees required to effectively conduct it will substantially contribute to the protection of those sources and methods.

The Office of Management and Budget advises there is no objection to the submission of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

/s/ W. E. Colby

W. E. Colby  
Director

Distribution:

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SUSPENSE 5 February 1975  
Date

Remarks:

Response for DCI signature, please.

Executive Secretary

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

Executive Registry

74-4426

*Law*

*ole 75-0149*  
January 28, 1975

Honorable William E. Colby  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Director:

Enclosed herewith is a copy of S. 99, a bill now pending before this Committee, which is referred to you for consideration.

It will be appreciated if you will submit to this Committee four copies of the recommendations of your Department with reference to this legislation.

Sincerely,

*John C. Stennis*  
John C. Stennis

Enclosure

94TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 99

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 15, 1975

Mr. HUMPHREY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

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## A BILL

To establish a Joint Committee on National Security.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3       That the Congress declares that—

4           (1) it has been vested with responsibility under  
5       the Constitution to assist in the formulation of the for-  
6       eign, domestic, and military policies of the United  
7       States;

8           (2) such policies are directly related to the security  
9       of the United States;

II

1           (3) the integration of such policies promotes our  
2       national security; and

3           (4) the National Security Council was established  
4       by the National Security Act of 1947 as a means of  
5       integrating such policies and furthering the national  
6       security.

7       The Congress further declares that the integration of  
8       such policies and furthering the national security also require  
9       oversight and monitoring by the Congress of activities of  
10      the intelligence agencies of the United States.

11      SEC. 2. (a) In order to enable the Congress to more  
12      effectively carry out its constitutional responsibility in the  
13      formulation of foreign, domestic, and military policies of the  
14      United States and in order to provide the Congress with  
15      an improved means for formulating legislation and provid-  
16      ing for the integration of such policies which will further  
17      promote the security of the United States, there is estab-  
18      lished a joint committee of the Congress which shall be  
19      known as the Joint Committee on National Security, here-  
20      after referred to as the "joint committee". The joint com-  
21      mittee shall be composed of twenty-five Members of Con-  
22      gress as follows:

23           (1) the Speaker of the House of Representatives;  
24           (2) the majority and minority leaders of the Senate  
25      and the House of Representatives;

1           (3) the chairmen and ranking minority members  
2 of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, the Senate  
3 Committee on Armed Services, the Senate Committee  
4 on Foreign Relations, and the Joint Committee on  
5 Atomic Energy;

6           (4) the chairmen and ranking minority members  
7 of the House Appropriations Committee, the House  
8 Armed Services Committee, and the House Foreign  
9 Affairs Committee;

10          (5) three Members of the Senate appointed by  
11 the President of the Senate, two of whom shall be  
12 members of the majority party and one of whom shall  
13 be a member of the minority party;

14          (6) three Members of the House of Representa-  
15 tives appointed by the Speaker, two of whom shall be  
16 members of the majority party and one of whom shall  
17 be a member of the minority party.

18          (b) The joint committee shall select a chairman and  
19 a vice chairman from among its members.

20          (c) Vacancies in the membership of the joint committee  
21 shall not affect the power of the remaining members to  
22 execute the functions of the joint committee and shall be  
23 filled in the same manner as in the case of the original  
24 appointment.

1       SEC. 3. (a) The joint committee shall have the follow-  
2   ing functions:

3           (1) to make a continuing study of the foreign,  
4       domestic, and military policies of the United States with  
5       a view to determining whether and the extent to which  
6       such policies are being appropriately integrated in fur-  
7       therance of the national security;

8           (2) to conduct in a timely fashion a thorough re-  
9       view and analysis of activities of the intelligence agencies  
10      of the United States in order to determine whether their  
11      charters, organization and operations are consistent with  
12      the national security needs of the Government;

13          (3) to make a continuing study of the recommen-  
14      dations and actions of the National Security Council  
15      relating to such policies and activities, with particular  
16      emphasis upon reviewing the goals, strategies, and al-  
17      ternatives of such foreign policy considered by the  
18      Council; and

19          (4) to make a continuing study of Government  
20      practices and recommendations with respect to the clas-  
21      sification and declassification of documents, and to rec-  
22      ommend certain procedures to be implemented for the  
23      classification and declassification of such material.

24      (b) The joint committee shall make reports from time  
25      to time (but not less than once each year) to the Senate and

1 House of Representatives with respect to its studies. The re-  
2 ports shall contain such findings, statements, and recom-  
3 mendations as the joint committee considers appropriate.

4 SEC. 4. (a) The joint committee, or any subcommittee  
5 thereof, is authorized, in its discretion (1) to make expendi-  
6 tures, (2) to employ personnel, (3) to adopt rules respect-  
7 ing its organization and procedures, (4) to hold hearings,  
8 (5) to sit and act at any time or place, (6) to subpoena wit-  
9 nesses and documents, (7) with the prior consent of the  
10 agency concerned, to use on a reimbursable basis the services  
11 of personnel, information, and facilities of any such agency,  
12 (8) to procure printing and binding, (9) to procure the  
13 temporary services (not in excess of one year) or inter-  
14 mittent services of individual consultants, or organizations  
15 thereof, and to provide assistance for the training of its pro-  
16 fessional staff, in the same manner and under the same con-  
17 ditions as a standing committee of the Senate may procure  
18 such services and provide such assistance under subsections  
19 (i) and (j), respectively, of section 202 of the Legislative  
20 Reorganization Act of 1946, and (10) to take depositions  
21 and other testimony. No rule shall be adopted by the joint  
22 committee under clause (3) providing that a finding, state-  
23 ment, recommendation, or report may be made by other than  
24 a majority of the members of the joint committee then hold-  
25 ing office.

1       (b) Subpenas may be issued over the signature of the  
2 chairman of the joint committee or by any member desig-  
3 nated by him or the joint committee, and may be served by  
4 such person as may be designated by such chairman or mem-  
5 ber. The chairman of the joint committee or any member  
6 thereof may administer oaths to witnesses. The provisions of  
7 sections 102-104 of the Revised Statutes (2 U.S.C. 192-  
8 194) shall apply in the case of any failure of any witness to  
9 comply with a subpoena or to testify when summoned under  
10 authority of this section.

11       (c) With the consent of any standing, select, or special  
12 committee of the Senate or House, or any subcommittee,  
13 the joint committee may utilize the services of any staff  
14 member of such House or Senate committee or subcom-  
15 mittee whenever the chairman of the joint committee deter-  
16 mines that such services are necessary and appropriate.

17       (d) The expenses of the joint committee shall be paid  
18 from the contingent fund of the Senate from funds appro-  
19 priated for the joint committee, upon vouchers signed by the  
20 chairman of the joint committee or by any member of the  
21 joint committee authorized by the chairman.

22       (e) Members of the joint committee, and its person-  
23 nel, experts, and consultants, while traveling on official busi-  
24 ness for the joint committee within or outside the United

1 States, may receive either the per diem allowance author-  
2 ized to be paid to Members of the Congress or its employees,  
3 or their actual and necessary expenses if an itemized state-  
4 ment of such expenses is attached to the voucher.

94TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S. 99**

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**A BILL**

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To establish a Joint Committee on National  
Security.

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By Mr. HUMPHREY

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JANUARY 15, 1975

Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed  
Services

## ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

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Legislative Counsel  
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*DK*  
Director

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Attached for your signature is a proposed response to the Senate Armed Services Committee's request for our comments on S. 99, a bill to establish a Joint Committee on National Security. This is Senator Humphrey's proposal. We make a statement in the letter arguing against the proliferation of oversight.

This letter has been coordinated with OGC.

*George L. Cary*  
Legislative Counsel